



OFFICE OF  
**INSPECTOR  
GENERAL**  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

# HIGHLIGHTS

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September 21, 2012

## Motor Vehicle Accident Prevention Program

Report Number HR-AR-12-006

### **BACKGROUND:**

The U.S. Postal Service operates a fleet of about 215,000 vehicles, with over 300,000 authorized drivers. During fiscal years 2010 and 2011, these drivers had over 20,000 accidents each year. Motor vehicle accidents result in medical costs to employers, legal expenses, property damage, and lost productivity. They also drive up the cost of benefits such as workers' compensation, Social Security, and private health and disability insurance.

The Postal Service's Safe Driver Program established policies and guidelines to ensure that its drivers are equipped to drive safely, comply with Department of Transportation regulations, and collect and deliver mail efficiently. Our objective was to assess internal controls over motor vehicle safety.

### **WHAT THE OIG FOUND:**

While the Postal Service has established procedures to monitor and oversee motor vehicle safety, supervisors did not always follow prescribed procedures. We identified issues relating to driving observations, vehicle safety inspections, and monitoring of driving privileges. As a result we identified \$97.7 million in assets at risk due to inadequate controls over motor vehicle safety. Efforts to prevent motor vehicle accidents help reduce costs, promote safety for

employees and the public, and enhance the Postal Service brand.

### **WHAT THE OIG RECOMMENDED:**

We recommended management provide supplemental guidance to area and district managers to enforce requirements for supervisors to adhere to motor vehicle safety procedures, to include conducting driving observations, ensuring drivers perform vehicle safety inspections, and performing quarterly driving privilege checks.

We also recommended management provide periodic refresher training to supervisors on the Safe Driver Program and ensure that employees performing driving observations take the Driver Observation training course. Finally, we recommended management establish and implement proactive monitoring processes that include using Department of Motor Vehicles' databases to ensure the validity of driver's licenses for employees in driving positions.